



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,643	07/07/2003	Tamra L. Thomason	200209506-1	1208
22879 7590 02/26/2008 HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			EXAMINER QIN, YIXING	
			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 02/26/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

JERRY.SHORMA@HP.COM
mkraft@hp.com
ipa.mail@hp.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,643

Applicant(s)

THOMASON, TAMRA L.

Examiner

Yixing Qin

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 20-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 20-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/30/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments state that the combination of Nomura and Sugiyama does not disclose/suggest the newly amended features of "suggesting an alternative unrestricted characteristic for printing data associated with the received user request if the received user request is determined to be Included in the set of one or more restricted user requests."

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Nomura discloses in Fig. 5 and P[0072 – 0077] that various print jobs with various characteristics are printable all day long or only during certain periods of the day. Thus, there is suggestion that a possible restricted job during nighttime would be able to be printed during the day or "normal" business hours. See that for example, Data 2 is printable during 600-2100, but not available at night from 2100-600. Even though Data 2 might be work appropriate, it is still restricted at night, so really a suggestion is made to print it during the day. From this example, the user trying to print data2 during the night hours would still get an appropriate error message such as that of Fig. 9, but this job would be regularly processed during the day. Thus, it would have been obvious to at least suggest that a job not possible during certain times of the day be printed during "normal" works hours.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

I. Claims 1-7, 20-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nomura (U.S. PG Pub. No. 2002/0059318) in view of Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,449).

Regarding claims 1 and 22, Nomura discloses a method of restricting execution of user requests for printing data, comprising:

defining a set of one or more restricted user requests, such restricted user requests being restricted according to characteristics associated with such restricted user requests; (Fig. 3)

receiving a user request having a characteristic; (Fig. 10)

determining whether the received user request is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests based on the characteristic of the received user request; (P[0018] and Fig. 10) and

Nomura does not explicitly disclose "receiving an authorization indicator before printing data associated with the received user request having the characteristic when the received user request is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests."

However, in Figs. 7-9, Nomura shows that various messages can be indicated, just got an authorization message. The secondary reference, Sugiyama discloses in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3, a typical authorization indicator that shows a login/password screen.

Nomura and Sugiyama are combinable because both are in the art of printing information.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a password authentication system.

The motivation would have been to allow an user to identify him/herself to gain access to print restricted data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Nomura and Sugiyama to obtain the invention as specified.

Nomura further suggests "suggesting an alternative unrestricted characteristic for printing data associated with the received user request if the received user request is determined to be Included in the set of one or more restricted user requests." (Fig. 5 and P[0072 – 0077] discloses that various print jobs with various characteristics are printable all day long or only during certain periods of the day. Thus, there is suggestion that a possible restricted job during nighttime would be able to be printed

during the day or "normal" business hours. See that for example, Data 2 is printable during 600-2100, but not available at night from 2100-600. Even though Data 2 might be work appropriate, it is still restricted at night, so really a suggestion is made to print it during the day.)

Regarding claim 2, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the characteristic of the received user request relates to a selected printing mode for printing the data, the selected printing mode specifying at least one of printing colorant, printing resolution, printing speed, print media source, type of print media, output sorting, output binding, and surface coating disposed on output. (Fig. 3)

Regarding claim 3, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the received user request defines an aspect of a print job, and wherein printing data includes sending the print job to a printing device. (Fig. 2)

Regarding claim 4, Nomura discloses the method of claim 3, wherein the user request is received from a person; and wherein defining includes receiving input specifying the set of one or more restricted user requests from an administrator of the printing device, the administrator being different than the person. (P[0079])

Regarding claim 5, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the characteristic is a numerical characteristic, and wherein at least one of the one or more

restricted user requests defines a threshold value for the numerical characteristic, determining being based on a comparison of the numerical characteristic and the threshold value. (Fig. 3, Fig. 10)

Regarding claims 6 and 24, Nomura discloses the method of claim 5, wherein the numerical characteristic relates to printed output produced by executing the received user request, and wherein the numerical characteristic is at least one of size of printed output, amount of print media included in the printed output, amount of colorant consumed to produce the printed output, duration of printing to produce the printed output, and amount of power consumed in producing the printed output. (Fig. 3, Fig. 10 – shows color data)

Regarding claim 7, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the authorization indicator is at least one of a password, a code, a string of characters, and a private key, and wherein receiving the authorization indicator includes requesting the authorization indicator after receiving the user request when the received user request is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests. (Again, the secondary reference, Sugiyama, shows in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3 a typical login screen.)

Regarding claim 23, Nomura discloses the method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the one or more restricted user requests defines a threshold value for the numerical characteristic, and wherein determining is based on a comparison of the

numerical characteristic of the received user request to the threshold value. (Fig. 10 and P[0018])

Regarding claim 20, Nomura discloses a system for controlling execution of user requests for printing data, comprising:

a printing device configured to print data associated with user requests; (Fig. 2)
and

a controller coupled with the printing device (Fig. 2, item 7) and including a set of restricted user requests according to characteristics associated with such restricted user requests (Fig. 10), the controller having a received user request that has a characteristic, the controller being configured to determine if the received user request is included in the set of restricted user requests based on the characteristic of such received user request, (P[0018] and Fig. 10) and also configured to receive an authorization indicator before allowing the printing device to print data associated with the received user request when the received user request is included in the set of restricted user requests, (Again, the secondary reference, Sugiyama, shows in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3 a typical login screen) and

Nomura further suggests "to suggest an alternative unrestricted characteristic for printing data associated with the received user request if the received user request is determined to be Included in the set of one or more restricted user requests." (Fig. 5 and P[0072 – 0077] discloses that various print jobs with various characteristics are printable all day long or only during certain periods of the day. Thus, there is

suggestion that a possible restricted job during nighttime would be able to be printed during the day or "normal" business hours. See that for example, Data 2 is printable during 600-2100, but not available at night from 2100-600. Even though Data 2 might be work appropriate, it is still restricted at night, so really a suggestion is made to print it during the day.)

Regarding claim 21, Nomura discloses the system of claim 20, the controller being included in a separate device that is connected to the printing device. P([0096])

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Application/Control Number:
10/615,643
Art Unit: 2625

Page 9

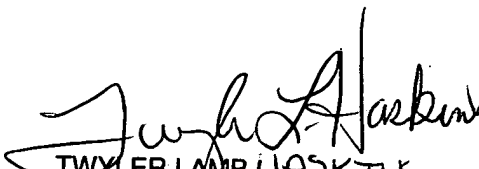
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



YQ



TWYLER LAMB HASKINS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER